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A WESTERN EDUCATOR.

Missouri a Pioneer in the New Education
Prof. B. F. Allen a Disciple of its
Practice and Methods.

In this great age of progress and reform, when the public mind is bent on revolutionizing crude methods and systems, to make them conform with the demands of modern civilization, even at the expense of many cherished traditions that often attaches to old forms made precious by long and tender associations, probably no factor has attracted so wide attention as the remarkable advancement that has been going on in the educational world. The distinguishing feature of this profound awakening is not so much what it has accomplished. But it is the constant, feverish, restless, indefatigable activity of its tireless apostles to attain an ideal system. To teach the child-mind facts has always been regarded the teachers' sole province. Today it is his highest duty to instruct the youth how to digest and assimilate his mental pabulum, the educational processes that are of the highest import to the man, and which everyone is compelled to know at the last in order to cope with life's problem.

It may be little known, but it is nevertheless true, that the State of Missouri first gave nurture to the inspired idea of Froebel, which is the basic principle of the new education. In conformity with such an advanced spirit in school advancement, it is little wonder that this State should furnish the country with its distinguished Commissioner of Education. Hardly less able, but not so conspicuous by fortune, this Commonwealth has given a host of bright scholars of both races from its splendid schools. Our story has to do with Prof. B. F. Allen, vice president of Lincoln Institute, who, from a standpoint of general excellence as an ideal educator, occupies the front rank. To be fully appreciated, Mr. Allen must be known personally. Nearly six feet tall, with a robust, splendid physique, handsome face, Chesterfieldian grace, and pleasant address, he at once charms, but commands the most deferential respect.

Unlike the all too common pedagogue who has one set of morals for the school room and another for the public, Prof. Allen is a man of irreproachable deportment, both in public and in private, at home and abroad, such a character as is at once an inspired ideal for the plastic mind of youth, which is more frequently fashioned by this model for weal or woe than by any other.

As a teacher he has been markedly successful wherever he has taught, as is abundantly attested by many flattering compliments from his superiors as well as by the respect, love, and esteem in which he has always been held by both pupil and patron. The following excerpt is from one of the leading journals of the Middle West:

As a teacher of Pedagogy, he tries to be all that he wants his pupils to become, and the graduates who have received their normal training under him are very much in demand as teachers.



PROF. B. F. ALLEN,
Vice President Lincoln Institute, Jefferson City, Mo.

Brilliant, modest, earnest, honest, independent, his is just the personality that our boys and girls ought to meet in the school room; and his classes honor and respect him because he is morally clean and has no deceit in him.

But it is as a teacher of teachers that Prof. Allen has demonstrated his greatest capacity as an educator and a race philanthropist. With an unselfishness and self-sacrifice almost akin to martyrdom, almost his entire vacations are spent in helping less fortunate aspirants for pedagogue merits. He has the high honor of a recent appointment by State Superintendent W. T. Carrington as chairman of a committee to conduct the colored State Institutes. And right here is revealed the character of a man that approaches the sublime in its nobility. How refreshing to contemplate the life purpose of such a one when we reflect upon the poverty of mankind's efforts for one another, unless actuated by sordid motives. Lincoln Institute is to be congratulated upon its fortunate possession of such a man.

Prof. Allen is also a member of the National Educational Association and was shown marked courtesy during its session at Charleston, S. C., last year. It is eminently meet that the widest mention should be given to such an instance as his life affords. Too many bright young men are going astray or growing up worthless simply through lack of the proper stimulus to be bet-

ter men, such as his example affords. Here is a young man who finds his pleasure in living a clean life, a gentleman, and a scholar, and one who is popular with his fellows, respected by his superiors, and beloved by all. It is a safe prediction that many high honors await such a one. The following interview with him by the Globe-Democrat, one of the leading newspapers of the whole country, will more truthfully portray the work in which he is engaged:

"While we believe thoroughly in that mental discipline, that classic culture, that literary refinement, which only a collegiate education can give, and while we try to send out every year a class of young men and young women who, we hope, will elevate and expand the minds, tastes and appreciation of the colored people in their respective communities, we do not forget that every man worth his salt is a worker and fighter of some sort; and education is worthless which does not forge the tools and weapons with which to fight. In addition to the collegiate and normal departments, we have a manual training and trade school, where our boys and girls can learn what shall fit them to become merchants, seamstresses, architects, and book-keepers."

Prof. Allen can always feel well assured of the best wishes of the Colored American for his noble and unselfish efforts to promote the best interests of his profession and the race.

LESSONS OF THE STRIKE.

The War Between Capital and Labor—
The Progress of Lawlessness—Bruce
Grits Faithful Pen Portrays the Sit-
uation—How Public Sympathy is
Swayed.

For ten days past the city of Albany has been terrorized by a mob of semi-respectable and civilized white men, who control and direct the industrial affairs of this old commonwealth. The effect of their recent outbreak against capital, as represented by the United Traction Company, will be to discourage the establishment of large industries here which are seeking an outlet for their surplus capital. These labor barons are not one whit better than the barons who represent great trusts and dictate the prices of everything the poor needs in his home and stomach. They are just as dominant and arbitrary and unreasonable, since no man can work without their consent, and not every man can get their consent.

The strike of the railroad employees in this city resulted from the refusal of the company to discharge a number of non-union men who have been working (some of them) for the company for years. Among them, I understand, is a colored man, a spool winder, who thoroughly understands his business and because the company refused to pay 20 cents per hour to all motormen, linemen, pitmen, and 17½ cents per hour to pitmen's helpers. The company was firm in its refusal to accede to these demands. Its employees were equally firm in their refusal to work for less. To operate the road to accommodate the public, the company sent for outside help. Their presence in the city and in places of its former employees resulted in the strike and the loss to the company of thousands of dollars and to the business interests of the city of other thousands of dollars, to say nothing of the losses of the working men themselves in wages. The money thus shamelessly wasted on all sides would more than pay the increase in wages demanded by the strikers, and their demands would doubtless have been acceded to could the company have foreseen the consequences of the strike.

The importation of troops into the city to put down lawlessness will cost the county of Albany anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

The strikers, however, have triumphed (?), as the company has agreed to meet their demands for an increase in wages and to do other things "stipulated in the bond."

Public sympathy was with them, and they very naturally feel that they have won a great victory. An important clause in the agreement signed by the strikers' representatives and the company's representatives is one giving it the right to employ non-union labor and to retain all such employees now in its service. This is the joker in the agreement. It reads as follows: "Seventh. The right which already exists

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